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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/655,226	09/05/2000	Yuka Sakazume	SONY-UO148	7761

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EXAMINER

GAUTHIER, GERALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/655,226

Applicant(s)

SAKAZUME, YUKA

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sundhar (US 6,201,858).

Regarding **claim 1**, Sundhar discloses a multiple terminal message indicator for a telecommunications network (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal"), comprising:

a phone number management unit (113 on FIG. 1), a message management unit (101 on FIG. 1) and a bulletin board unit (104 on FIG. 1) provided in the network (column 2, lines 22-32);

means for registering a predetermined communication terminal (column 3, line 64 "phones") so as to correspond to the issued common phone number by sending an identification name (column 3, line 63 "identifying") of the predetermined communication terminals of the plurality of communication terminals to the phone number management unit in correspondence with the common phone number issued from the management terminal (column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 9) [The system stores the information about the subscriber identifying the phones to receive the messages];

means for sending a message file (column 4, line 23 "message indicators") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 4, line 25 "phone") to the common phone number to other registered communication terminals (column 4, line 34 "selected phones") when a first mode (column 4, line 35 "flashing light") in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") in the message management unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode (column 4, line 37 "constant light") in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit to receive the message file is selected (column 4, lines 23-43) [The system sends notification of the message to various telephone in the subscriber profile];

means for leaving a message (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 3, line 29 "phone connection") to the common phone number on the bulletin board unit (column 3, lines

27-38) [The system allows the caller to transfer to a different messaging system to leave a message]; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in the message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in the message management unit, and the message left on the bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on the unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals (column 5, lines 5-10) [The subscriber accesses two different messaging system to receive the pending message].

Regarding **claims 2, 5, 8 and 11**, Sundhar discloses wherein each of the communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of the communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium (column 3, lines 39-53).

Regarding **claims 3, 6, 9 and 12**, Sundhar discloses wherein the message file and the message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively (column 3, lines 27-38).

Regarding **claim 4**, Sundhar discloses a multiple terminal message indicator for a telecommunications network (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed “a communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal”), comprising:

a phone number management unit (113 on FIG. 1), a message management unit (101 on FIG. 1) and a bulletin board unit (104 on FIG. 1) provided in the network (column 2, lines 22-32);

means for registering, after being accessed by an arbitrary one of the plurality of communication terminals (column 3, line 42 “default option”) using the issued common phone number (column 3, line 42 “a particular system”) and receiving a confirmation by the management terminal, the arbitrary one of the communication terminals in correspondence with the common phone number issued from the management terminal (column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 9) [The system stores the information about the subscriber identifying the phones to receive the messages];

means for sending a message file (column 4, line 23 “message indicators”) sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 4, line 25 “phone”) to the common phone number to other registered communication terminals (column 4, line 34 “selected phones”) when a first mode (column 4, line 35 “flashing light”) in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and

leaving the message file (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") in the message management unit when a second mode (column 4, line 37 "constant light") in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit to receive the message file is selected (column 4, lines 23-43) [The system sends notification of the message to various telephone in the subscriber profile];

means for leaving a message (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminals (column 3, line 29 "phone connection") to the common phone number on the bulletin board unit (column 3, lines 27-38) [The system allows the caller to transfer to a different messaging system to leave a message]; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in the message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in the message management unit, and the message left on the bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on the bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals (column 5, lines 5-10) [The subscriber accesses two different messaging system to receive the pending message].

Regarding **claim 7**, Sundhar discloses a multiple terminal message indicator for a telecommunications network (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal"), wherein:

the network is provided with a phone number management unit (113 on FIG. 1), a message management unit (101 on FIG. 1) and a bulletin board unit (104 on FIG. 1), and the method comprising the steps of:

registering a predetermined communication terminal (column 3, line 64 "phones") so as to correspond to the issued common phone number by sending an identification name (column 3, line 63 "identifying") of the predetermined communication terminal of the plurality of communication terminals to the phone number management unit in correspondence with the common phone number issued from the management terminal (column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 9) [The system stores the information about the subscriber identifying the phones to receive the messages];

sending a message file (column 4, line 23 "message indicators") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 4, line 25 "phone") to the common phone number to other registered communication terminals (column 4, line 34 "selected phones") when a first mode (column 4, line 35 "flashing light") in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") in the message

Art Unit: 2645

management unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode (column 4, line 37 "constant light") in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit to receive the message file is selected (column 4, lines 23-43) [The system sends notification of the message to various telephone in the subscriber profile];

leaving a message (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 3, line 29 "phone connection") to the common phone number on the bulletin board unit (column 3, lines 27-38) [The system allows the caller to transfer to a different messaging system to leave a message]; and

reading at any time the message file left in the message management unit or the message left on the bulletin board unit from an arbitrary one of the registered communication terminals (column 5, lines 5-10) [The subscriber accesses two different messaging system to receive the pending message].

Regarding **claim 10**, Sundhar discloses a multiple terminal message indicator for a telecommunications network (column 1, lines 6-8), (which reads on claimed "a communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal"), wherein:

the network is provided with a phone number management unit (113 on FIG. 1), a message management unit (101 on FIG. 1) and a bulletin board unit (104 on FIG. 1), and the method comprising the steps of:

registering, after being accessed by an arbitrary one of the plurality of communication terminals (column 3, line 42 "default option") using the issued common phone number (column 3, line 42 "a particular system") and receiving a confirmation by the management terminal, the arbitrary one of the communication terminals in correspondence with the common phone number issued from the management terminal (column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 9) [The system stores the information about the subscriber identifying the phones to receive the messages];

sending a message file (column 4, line 23 "message indicators") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 4, line 25 "phone") to the common phone number to other registered communication terminals (column 4, line 34 "selected phones") when a first mode (column 4, line 35 "flashing light") in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") in the message

Art Unit: 2645

management unit when a second mode (column 4, line 37 "constant light") in which any registered communication terminal accesses to the message management unit to receive the message file is selected (column 4, lines 23-43) [The system sends notification of the message to various telephone in the subscriber profile];

leaving a message (column 3, line 32 "leave a message") sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal (column 3, line 29 "phone connection") to the common phone number on the bulletin board unit (column 3, lines 27-38) [The system allows the caller to transfer to a different messaging system to leave a message]; and

reading at any time the message file left in the message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in the message management unit and the message left on the bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on the bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals (column 5, lines 5-10) [The subscriber accesses two different messaging system to receive the pending message].

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lim et al. is cited for a computer-implemented voice-based command structure for establishing outbound communication through a unified messaging system (FIG. 1).

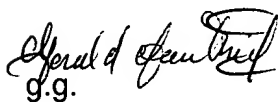
McConnell is cited for a common message waiting notification across landline and wireless telecommunications network (FIG. 1).

Art Unit: 2645

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (703) 305-0981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.


g.g.

April 18, 2003

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

